

## **REMARKS**

Claims 18-21 and 22-33 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Allen in view of Tinus. Claim 22 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Allen modified by Adams as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Evans. The claims have been extensively rewritten to highlight the differences between the cited references and the invention.

Independent claims 18 and 33 are based on original claims 1 and 17. Those claims have now been amended to include the features of original claim 8. Further, claim 20 has been amended to require that the fastening elements be loops for receiving the side elements.

The features added to independent claims 18 and 33 facilitate assembling and disassembling of the swing. In particular, if the bearing surface is tense or tight, the connecting elements may be mounted effortlessly after having fastened the interwoven longitudinal and transverse band elements to the four side elements. In other words, when assembling the swing, first the band elements are connected to the side elements and second the connecting elements are assembled by positioning two bordering side elements e.g. on a lower half shell and then positioning the upper half shell on the lower half shell sandwiching and clamping the bordering side elements between the half shells. In particular, the assembly of the last of four connecting elements is highly facilitated because the connecting elements comprise two half shells. Further, an easy and secure connection between the connecting element and the side element is provided by simply clamping the side element.

With respect to the prior art, in our view, Allen shows tube shaped elbows 14 which are formed as a single piece. No upper or lower half shell connecting elements are disclosed. There is no teaching or suggestion in Allen regarding the facilitation of the assembly of the frame after having mounted the sling because the assembly problem does not arise with a sling such as in Allen that is not tensioned but instead has considerable slack. Further, Allen does not teach interwoven band elements connected to side elements, as is specifically required by the main claims.

Accordingly, the combination of the features of the amended independent claims is clearly not disclosed in or rendered obvious by Allen. Since neither Tinus, Manner, Adams nor Evans have connecting elements, none of those references render connecting elements made of two half shells obvious.

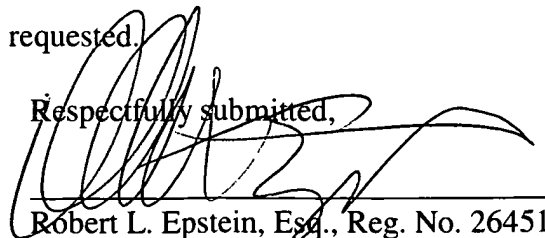
It is also noted that neither Tinus, Adams nor Manner show bearing surfaces which are to be assembled to a completed frame. In particular, Tinus describes the subsequent assembly of metal straps to an existing frame. The same applies to Adams.

Accordingly, the prior art documents teach away from the invention in view of the above described assembly problem solved by the present invention and applicant's solution thereof.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references, whether considered individually or in combination render the claims as amended

unpatentable and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert L. Epstein', is written over a horizontal line.

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